

**Memorandum of Agreement
between the
North Carolina Department of Correction
and the
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
and the
North Carolina Department of Commerce
and the
North Carolina Community College System**

This Memorandum of Agreement is entered by and between the Department of Correction, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Commerce and the Community College System for the purpose of developing a comprehensive offender management strategy that ensures public safety by reducing recidivism and addressing supervision and service needs of offenders returning from prison to local communities. The purpose of the comprehensive offender management strategy is to create a seamless system built on the ideals of integrated service delivery and coordination of resources that provide effective interventions for offenders. These state agencies recognize the importance of creating a sustainable transition and reentry process that engages all aspects of the community to support offender reintegration.

Through this Memorandum, the state agencies agree to collaborate utilizing existing resources, programs and services. To that end:

- the **Department of Correction** offers the Division of Prisons (DOP), Transition Aftercare Network (TAN), JobStart, Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI) and the Division of Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency Programs (DACDP) as primary resources involved in managing and serving inmates during their incarceration. The Post-Release and Parole Commission establishes conditions of parole and post-release supervision. The Division of Community Corrections (DCC), Probation Services, and Criminal Justice Partnership Program (CJPP) will be primary resources involved in community-based supervision and services. Research and Planning will be a resource during incarceration and community phases.
- the **Department of Health and Human Services** offers local area Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Service (MHDDSAS) programs and the Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) Network as primary resources involved in community-based behavioral health services.
- the **Department of Commerce** offers Workforce Development Boards (WDB) and JobLink Career Centers as primary resources involved in job training and job placement.

- the **Community College System** offers local community colleges as primary resources involved in educational and vocational opportunities for offenders during their incarceration as well as in community settings.

The Going Home Initiative presents a systemic model for screening and assessing offenders, matching them to appropriate interventions, managing their case plans and assisting in their successful community reintegration. The objectives of this Memorandum and the Going Home Initiative are:

- To ensure public safety by reducing recidivism through successful community reintegration;
- To create a sustainable transition and reentry process that ensures coordinated services and supervision for offenders released from prison; and
- To establish a statewide network of government agencies, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses and citizens committed to successful offender transition and reentry.

The target population for the Going Home Initiative includes serious and violent adult offenders who are determined to pose a serious risk to public safety, based on their potential to recidivate. Offenders meeting the eligibility criteria will be screened and assessed using standardized instruments that focus on their risk to public safety, criminogenic need and service needs, such as treatment, housing, educational achievement, and employment skills.

Through the assessment process, the offender's risk and needs will be identified and prioritized in a case plan. The cross-agency, multi-disciplinary Transition Teams will develop this unified case plan for the offender. This team-initiated, unified case plan supports a seamless system and further reinforces collaboration and coordination into a process of practical application. An offender's case plan will include the elements of treatment and control necessary to ensure compliance in both areas. Cognitive behavioral interventions will be used widely in this Initiative to assist with skill building and cognitive restructuring. Research demonstrates that targeting antisocial attitudes, values and beliefs using cognitive behavioral interventions result in reductions in recidivism.

In addition, the Initiative will monitor and track numerous shared outcomes. The criminal justice, public healthcare and service systems must embrace stated goals of reducing recidivism and controlling criminal behavior to sustain the Initiative's focus on outcomes. The common emphasis on reducing recidivism brings the systems into alignment, and requires each to rethink operations and priorities based on shared goals. Furthermore, the team approach helps to maximize resources and make reallocation decisions apparent. The Transition Team will exchange information and make referrals regarding sanctions, treatment and service needs to existing community-based service providers.

Each local community within the Reentry Clusters will need to operationalize the Going Home Initiative to their unique set of offender needs and resources. Specifically, a Memorandum of Agreement governing the implementation of the Initiative at the local level must be developed and negotiated then signed by the appropriate authorized representatives.

This Memorandum will remain in effect until renegotiated by authorized representatives from the participating agencies. This Memorandum shall be reviewed as necessary, not less than every two years. This Memorandum may be amended, if mutually agreed upon and approved by authorized representatives of the participating agencies, to change the scope and terms. Such changes shall be incorporated as a written amendment to this Memorandum.

Department of Correction

BY: Signature on File
Theodis Beck, Secretary

DATE: _____

Department of Health and Human Services

BY: Signature on File
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

DATE: _____

Department of Commerce

BY: Signature on File
Jim Fain, Secretary

DATE: _____

North Carolina Community College System

BY: Signature on File
H. Martin Lancaster, President

DATE: _____

Appendix I

**Figure 1. North Carolina Going Home Initiative
*Offender Management Model***

Figure 2. North Carolina Going Home Initiative Re-Entry Clusters